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Paul Preston releases new book on Santiago Carillo

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[Lead2](#), [National News](#) • 2 Comments

RENOWNED British historian Paul Preston pulls no punches with his latest book on former Communist leader Santiago Carillo.

Preston, who is regarded as one of Spain's leading experts in 20th century Spain, paints a far from perfect portrait of the anti-Franco figurehead.

Following Carillo's death last September, Preston was approached by several publishers to write a biography of the former Spanish Communist Party (PCE) leader.

"What resulted was not what I expected," said Preston on his new book, *The red fox: the life of Santiago Carrillo*.

"It was clear that Carrillo possessed certain qualities in abundance: work ethic, energy and patience, skill in his writing and oratory, intelligence and guile.

"Unfortunately, it was equally clear that honesty and loyalty did not figure among



• Former PCE leader Santiago Carillo

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them,” added Preston, who compares Carrillo to Franco and Stalin in the book.

Preston adds that Carrillo’s major downfall was that he never offered a ‘sincere explanation’ for the Paracuellos massacres in which 2,000-4,000 Nationalists and civilians were executed by Republicans.

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PM

April 16th, 2013 12:25 am

And here in Ronda, 512 were chunked off the Tajo in the first 3 months, or so it is said. Doctors, lawyers, teachers, dentists, anyone with an education. Franco may have been an evil Fascist, but Communists are not only evil, they are unutterably stupid. There is an entire generation in Andalucia who cannot read or write. They had killed the teachers. Forget Pol Pot and Mao. It happened here, where we live.



Rod, Jane and Freddy

June 27th, 2013 3:32 pm

Thanks PM, for the insightful, “so it is said comment”. You forget that most of those “Communists” were teachers, doctors, dentists and anyone else, who was a menace to the oligarchy and the backers of Franco.